(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government with regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (c) The relevant information is being collected and it will be laid on the table of the House.

World Bank aid for Cleansing Yamuna

2809. SHRIMATI VEENA VARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a plan for cleansing the Yamuna and preventing further pollution of Yamuna waters, in and around the capital with World Bank aid;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme, its cost and the World Bank aid expected therefor; and

(c) what steps have been taken so far for cleansing the Yamuna?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) No plan for cleansing the Yamuna and for preventing the further pollution of Yamuna waters with World Bank aid in and around the capital is under consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Yamuna Action Plan was launched in April, 1993. Under this Plan, a capacity to treat 745 million litres per day of sewage will be created. The plan is in various stages of progress. Schemes have been sanctioned for a sum of Rs. 451.47 crores in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Delhi. The Schemes sanctioned include (1) interception and diversion works (2) sewage treatment plants (3) low cost sanitation (4) river front development works (5) afforestation and (6) construction of crematoria. Two sewage treatment plants and an electric crematorium have been taken up in Delhi under the Plan. In addition, the Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi under its own plan is constructing sewage treatment plants with appurtenant works at an approved cost of Rs. 469.67 crores. All these plants, except one will be completed by December, 1999. The remaining sewage treatment plant is targeted for completion by June, 2000.

Extinction of Wild Ass

2810. SHRI RAMACHANDRAIAH RUMANDLA:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:
DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the salt industry and noise and air pollution are driving wild ass in the Rann of Kutch to extinction;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to protect the endangered species in their habitat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) An area of 4953.70 sq. km. has been declared as Wild Ass Sanctuary and the settlement of its boundaries is being done on top priority.

Lead contents in the atmosphere in Delhi

2811. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that though the lead content in the atmosphere over Delhi has dropped by 61% the suspended particulate matter (SPM) level has remained consistently high at about 359 mg/m^3 over the last ten years;